



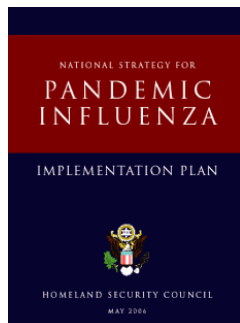
Office of Environment, Safety and Health Fact Sheet

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Pandemic Influenza: Highlights of The National Strategy



President Bush announced the *Implementation Plan for the National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza* May 5, 2006. The Plan translates the *National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza* into more than 300 actions for Federal departments and agencies and sets clear expectations for State and local governments and other non-Federal entities. It also provides guidance for all Federal departments and

agencies on the development of their own plans.

The Administration is Taking Action to Prepare for a Possible Pandemic. On November 1, 2005, the day the *National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza* was announced, the Administration submitted a \$7.1 billion emergency budget supplemental request to Congress for pandemic preparedness funding. The request supports investing in international health surveillance and containment efforts; medical stockpiles; the domestic capacity to produce emergency supplies of pandemic vaccine and antiviral medications; and preparedness at all levels of government. On December 30, 2005, the President signed the Department of Defense, Emergency Supplemental Appropriations to Address Hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico, and Pandemic Influenza Act, 2006. The Act includes \$3.8 billion for pandemic influenza preparedness and comprehensive liability protection for pandemic countermeasures, as well as a compensation program for individuals who are inadvertently harmed by a pandemic countermeasure. These steps encourage the establishment of a domestic vaccine production base. The President's FY2007 Budget Request includes a \$2.3 billion allowance to support the next phase of the President's strategy.

The Avian and Pandemic Influenza Threat

Pandemic Influenza Poses A Greater Risk Than Seasonal Influenza. Most Americans are familiar with seasonal influenza or the "flu" - a respiratory illness that makes hundreds of thousands of people in the United States sick every year. For most healthy people, seasonal influenza is not life-threatening. Pandemic influenza is different from seasonal influenza because it occurs when a new strain of influenza emerges that can be transmitted easily from person-to-person and for which people have

no immunity. Unlike seasonal influenza, which typically affects the frail and sick, pandemic influenza could present as much risk to the young and healthy as to the frail and sick.

The Federal Government Is Closely Monitoring An Avian Influenza Virus Known As H5N1. This influenza strain has infected domesticated birds, including chickens, and also migratory and other wild birds in 50 countries across Asia, Europe, and Africa. It has also infected more than 200 people worldwide.

Today, H5N1 Avian Influenza Affects Primarily Birds - This Does Not Signal The Start Of A Pandemic. Unless people come into direct contact with infected birds, it is unlikely they will contract the disease. If the virus develops the capacity for sustained human-to-human transmission, however, it could spread quickly around the world.

Translating the *National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza* into Action

The Federal Government is releasing *The Implementation Plan* to Help the Nation Prepare for a Possible Pandemic. The



Implementation Plan provides direction to Federal departments and agencies, State and local governments, communities, and the private sector on the actions to prepare for a possible pandemic across the following six functional areas:

- **International efforts** to prevent and contain outbreaks abroad
- **Transportation and borders** to slow the arrival and spread of a pandemic
- **Protecting human health** to limit spread and mitigate illness
- **Protecting animal health** to control influenza with human pandemic potential in animals
- **Law enforcement, public safety, and security** to ensure civil order during a pandemic
- **Planning by institutions** to protect personnel and ensure continuity of operations

Four Federal Priority Actions in the *Implementation Plan*

1. Advance International Capacity for Early Warning and Response.

- Advance international cooperation, secure international commitment to transparency, scientific cooperation, rapid reporting of human and animal cases, and sharing of data and viral isolates.
- Build international capacity for veterinary and public health activities in at-risk countries and to detect and contain animal and human outbreaks of avian influenza.

2. Limit The Arrival And Spread Of A Pandemic.

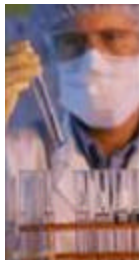
- Ensure early warning and situational awareness through enhanced domestic avian influenza surveillance in humans, wild birds, and poultry.
- Develop a comprehensive border and transportation strategy.
- Establish arrangements with international partners to voluntarily limit travel and establish screening for travelers from affected areas.

3. Provide Clear Guidance To All Stakeholders.

- Ensure effective risk communication
- Provide guidance on distributing urgent resources
- Provide comprehensive guidance to limit the spread of disease
- Provide clear guidance for the public and private sectors

4. Accelerate The Development Of Countermeasures.

- Develop rapid, sensitive, and accurate diagnostic tests for use by medical personnel and for screening
- Medications
- Develop cell-based vaccine-manufacturing methods, increase domestic vaccine production capacity, and advance the development of next-generation influenza diagnostics and countermeasures.



The Importance of Preparedness by Individuals, Communities, and the Private Sector

Individuals Must Actively Participate. Simple infection-control measures including hand washing and staying home when ill are critical. Individuals should actively participate in their communities' responses.



State And Local Governments Must Prepare. State and local governments, with clear guidance from the Federal Government, should be prepared to implement community-wide measures.

The Private Sector Must Prepare. The private sector, with targeted and timely guidance from the Federal Government, should develop plans to provide essential services even in the face of sustained and significant absenteeism. Businesses should also integrate their planning into their communities' planning.

DOE Planning for Pandemic Influenza

Deputy Secretary Clay Sell directed the Office of Environment, Safety and Health (EH) to lead the Department's response to pandemic influenza.

EH is currently chairing a Biological Event Monitoring Team (BEMT), represented by key departmental elements, who are developing the DOE Strategy to address this threat. This team would coordinate with the Department of Homeland Security, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and other U.S. Governmental Agencies, in the event of a pandemic.

The BEMT has directed all field elements to review their Continuity of Operations Plan and to determine and designate Mission Essential Functions in the event of a pandemic. Additionally EH has directed field elements to contact local public health agencies to identify protective measures to be taken by personnel and resources available for medical and organization response

The Department's planning includes an education and informational campaign for DOE employees available at <http://www.eh.doe.gov/health/avian.html>

More information on DOE Planning for pandemic influenza will be posted later this summer.

More detailed information on Pandemic Influenza*

- White House: [Advancing The Nation's Preparedness For Pandemic Influenza](http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/pandemicflu): www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/pandemicflu
- CDC Avian Influenza: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/index.htm>
- World Health Organization: http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/en/
- H5N1 vaccine development process by National Institutes of Health: <http://www3.niaid.nih.gov/news/newsreleases/2005/H5N1QandA.htm>
- Visit the DOE Health Units in Forrestal or Germantown or any field site occupational medicine clinic.

*These websites also have information available in languages other than English.

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